REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement interposed by the examiner, applicants elect,

with traverse, Group I, claims 1-7. Claim 1 has been amended, and new Claim 18 has been

added. No new matter is introduced by this amendment and it is respectfully requested that

this Preliminary Amendment be entered prior to initial examination on the merits.

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an

entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the

merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants

submit that there is no undue burden in this case and therefore respectfully request

examination of all currently pending claims.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for

allowance and therefore request favorable consideration. If any issues remain which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the

Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants counsel, James M. Heintz at

202.861.4167.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER US LLP

James M. Heintz

Registration No. 41,828

1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036-2412

Telephone No. (202) 861-3900 Facsimile No. (202) 223-2085

6